



Meeting Summary September 9, 2015

Attendance

Panel Members: Phyllis Cook, Chair
Mohammad Saleem, Vice Chair
Hank Alinger
Phillips Engelke
Rob Hollis
Peggy White

DPZ Staff: Randy Clay, Kristin O'Connor, Mary Smith

Merriweather Post Pavilion – Renovations and Additions - #15-15

Owner/Developer: Howard Hughes Corporation
Architect: JP2 Architects, LLC
Engineer: Gutschick, Little & Weber, P.A.

1. Call to Order – DAP Chair Phyllis Cook opened the meeting at 7:31 pm, calling for introductions of the Panel, staff and project team.

2. Review of Merriweather Post Pavilion – Renovations and Additions #15-15 – Jamie Pett, Principal, JP2 Architects, provided an overview of the renovations planned for Merriweather Post Pavilion emphasizing the constraints placed on constructing improvements within the period (October through April) when the pavilion isn't in operation. The improvements fall into three categories: audience experience, performance accommodations and back stage facilities. The existing roof line will be raised to accommodate better lawn viewing from what exists today. The loge area's removable tents and seating will be replaced by permanent roofing and seating. The increased height of the pavilion roof will accommodate better set arrangements. Temporary trailers used to accommodate dressing, dining and storage functions will be consolidated into a single building facility.

Mr. Pett described the environmental mitigation measures being proposed. The overall pavilion master plan seeks to minimize impacts on existing tree cover. A tree inventory was completed by Biohabitats, an environmental planning firm. Buildings, pathways and parking fields take their cues from existing tree plantings. Pervious paving materials are being used throughout the complex to avoid impacts to critical root zones and manage storm water. Parking displaced by road work occurring west of the pavilion will be replaced by handicap accessible parking. A fire road along the east of the site will consist of both paving and grass block pavers creating the visual appearance of a pedestrian scale walkway.

The first phase of improvements will include raising the stage house and stage as well as the back of house building for support functions. A new stage will consist of wood in keeping with the pavilion's original design. The architectural concept for the stage house breaks down its scale by introducing a serrated edging in the top tier of the building where cedar paneling transitions into a cementitious paneling. Light hole punch outs are

also introduced throughout the building façade for additional interest. The back of house building will be two stories and opens up to an outdoor lounge area. A series of wood screens are used to separate the space from adjacent loading areas. A second phase of improvements will include the raised pavilion roof, loge roofs, storage and office facilities adjoining the back of house building as well as east side guest service facilities. A shared use restroom outside the Merriweather property line is also planned for that will be accessible to the park. The eastern portion of the site is organized into three terraces which accommodate ADA access and are linked with one another via ramps and elevator. A cross isle joins the lower terrace to the pavilion allowing east-west movement across the facility.

Mr. Pett further described the materials palette being used for the pavilion's various buildings. The architectural vocabulary maintains continuity with the pavilion's park like setting. Natural stone, masonry block and both cedar and metal paneling are incorporated.

Pursuant to each motion duly made and seconded, DAP adopted the following recommendations for the project. These recommendations will be forwarded to the Howard County Planning Board.

DAP Phil Engelke offered the following motions:

1. "As much as possible use vertical metal picket fencing." Seconded by H. Alinger.

Vote: 6-0 to approve.

2. "Take into consideration with graphics the sculptural forms and references to mid-century when developing the graphics package that will follow suit." Seconded by R. Hollis.

Vote: 6-0 to approve.

DAP member Hank Alinger offered the following motion:

3. "Consider more detail for the artist lounge area to create a landscape definition for the terrace and create more separation from the adjacent surface area." Seconded by P. Cook.

Vote: 6-0 to approve.

DAP Vice Chair Mohammad Saleem offered the following motion:

4. "The serrated edge of the stage house be simplified to reduce the height and that the top could be some type of gray metal, but instead of serrated, it be more horizontal and plan and simple to fit in the current, natural environment." Seconded by P. Cook.

Vote: 2- Yes. 4 Naas

DAP Chair Phyllis Cook offered the following motions:

5. "The loge roofs undergo more study in terms of tying them into the main building roof appearance wise perhaps with wood fascias." Seconded by M. Saleem.

Vote: 6-0 to approve.

6. "A green roof be considered for the complex potentially at the back of house building location." Seconded by M. Saleem.

Vote: 6-0 to approve.

3. Call to Adjourn – DAP Chair Phyllis Cook adjourned the meeting at 8:40 pm.